

## *Tenuicoris myrmeforme*: A New Genus and Species of Myodochini (Hemiptera: Lygaeidae)<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract:** *Tenuicoris myrmeforme* is described as a new genus and new species from Bolivia, Peru, and Brazil. Ant-mimetic characteristics are noted. The relationships of the genus are stated to be with such neotropical species as *Heraeus cincticornis* Stål. A dorsal view of the holotype is presented.

The tribe Myodochini is one of the largest taxa in the lygaeid subfamily Rhyparochrominae. It is the most diverse and dominant element in the neotropical rhyparochromine fauna.

Several Western Hemisphere myodochines are striking ant-mimics. As field information on lygaeid behavioral patterns increases, it is becoming evident that many additional species are also ant-mimics, although the morphological modifications are so limited that this is not readily evident in museum specimens.

In the present paper we describe a new ant-mimetic species from South America which represents an undescribed genus.

### *Tenuicoris*, NEW GENUS

Head elongate, acuminate, swollen and formicoid in lateral view; interocular area flattened, post-ocular area prolonged and tapering markedly but gradually from eye to insertion of head, lateral margins of gena forming a sharp ridge extending posterior to and above insertion of antennal segment 1; anterior pronotal lobe shining, strongly convex, with a distinct narrow ring-like anterior collar, lateral margins of anterior lobe evenly rounded, transverse impression deep and distinct, lateral margin of posterior lobe obtusely rounded, narrowing from humeri to transverse impression at a 45° angle, posterior margin straight, anterior lobe (except collar) impunctate, strongly polished, posterior lobe completely pruinose with anterior  $\frac{1}{3}$  thickly pale gray to silvery pruinose and posterior  $\frac{2}{3}$  strongly differentiated as less densely pruinose yellowish; scutellum convexly elevated across anterior  $\frac{2}{3}$ ; hemelytra attaining abdominal apex, clavus coarsely punctate, forming four or more very irregular intermixed rows of punctures, lateral corial margins strongly constricted at level of claval commissure; legs elongate and slender, fore femora only slightly incrassate, bearing one large

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and several small spines subdistally below; 1st metatarsal segment extremely elongate, three times as long as length of segments 2 and 3 combined; antennae very long, slender, terete; metapleural evaporative area extending well beyond scent gland orifice to occupy inner  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{2}{3}$  of metapleuron, laterally truncate; abdominal spiracles 2, 3, and 4 located dorsally; scent gland scars present between abdominal tergites 3 to 4, 4 to 5, and 5 to 6; inner latero-tergites absent; abdomen moderately constricted basally.

This ant-mimetic genus belongs to the rhyparochromine tribe Myodochini. It has all of the typical tribal characters such as abdominal spiracles placed dorsally on segments two, three, and four, inner latero-tergites absent, conventional, generalized trichobothrial pattern and laterally rounded pronotum.

*Tenuicoris* is most closely related to *Heraeus* Stål and appears to be derived directly from species of the latter. *Heraeus* at present contains a rather diverse assemblage of species held together chiefly by the tendency of the head behind the eyes to be narrowed to form a short "neck." *Tenuicoris myrmeforme* is probably derived from a *Heraeus* stock rather similar to that at present represented by *Heraeus cincticornis* Stål. Like *Tenuicoris myrmeforme*, *cincticornis* is a large, slender species with very elongate legs and antennae. Its lateral jugal margins are noticeably carinate and the head, when viewed laterally, is rather myrmecoid in appearance. There is a conspicuous elongate white macula distally on the corium and another at the mesal apex of the membrane. The connexival area on sterna 4 and 5 is also pale. There are other large neotropical species of *Heraeus* that also have carinate lateral jugal margins so that *T. myrmeforme* seems to represent a highly derived taxon that has evolved from a *Heraeus cincticornis*-like ancestor.

*Tenuicoris myrmeforme* is readily distinguishable from any species of *Heraeus* by the striking condition of the pronotum. The anterior lobe is smooth and polished while the posterior lobe appears banded with its anterior third very heavily pruinose and its posterior two-thirds sharply demarked as less pruinose. *Heraeus* species generally have both pronotal lobes dull or subshining and never present the contrasting highly polished anterior lobe of *Tenuicoris*. The longitudinally oval eyes of *T. myrmeforme* are quite unlike the condition found in *Heraeus* species. The basally constricted abdomen and strongly mesally depressed head in the area of the eyes and juga are also distinctive features, and we have not examined any species of *Heraeus* which has such reduced armature of the fore femora as is found in *T. myrmeforme*.

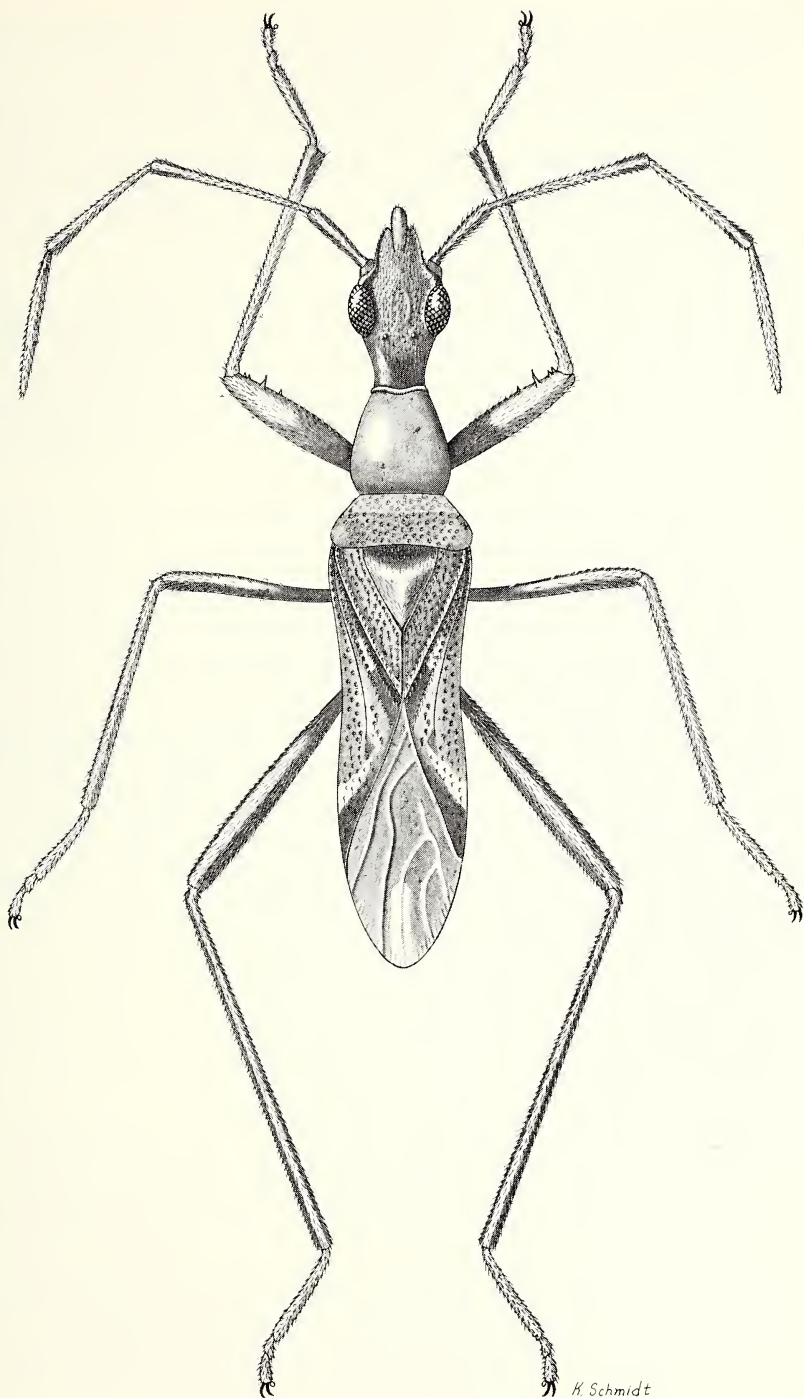
Type species: *Tenuicoris myrmeforme*, n. sp., monobasic.

*Tenuicoris myrmeforme*, n. sp.

Please see Fig. 1. Head, antennal segment 1 and scutellum chestnut to tawny; antennal segments 2, 3, and 4 sordid buffy yellow with distal portions of 2 and 3 red, proximal and distal ends of segment 4 shaded with buffy brown; pronotum, thorax laterally and ventrally, femora and tibiae tawny, lightly suffused with brownish red, proximal  $\frac{1}{3}$  of femora pale, tarsi tawny to buffy yellow; clavus and corium cinnamon, membrane becoming buffy brown and fuscous along apical margins of corium, central area of clavus and on corium adjacent to claval suture and over most of membrane; hemelytra marked with strongly contrasting white coloration as follows: a narrow stripe along entire lateral claval margin adjacent to claval suture widened at distal end, a short narrow macula on corium adjacent to claval suture at level of anterior  $\frac{1}{2}$  of claval commissure, an oblique mesally tapering vitta near posterior end of corium running antero-mesad from lateral corial margin almost to middle

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FIG. 1. *Tenuicoris myrmeforme*, n. sp. Dorsal view, holotype.



of apical corial margin, a broad white median stripe on distal  $\frac{1}{3}$  of membrane extending anteriorly almost to level of apex of corium; abdomen fuscous, becoming tawny on sternum 2, connexivum ventrally with sordid white macula covering most of segment 5 and central  $\frac{1}{2}$  of segment 6; head granulose and obscurely transversely rugulose, anterior pronotal lobe impunctate, shining, posterior lobe with distinct discrete punctures; scutellum shining with a few large scattered punctures on elevated area and coarsely punctate laterally; entire body surface except membrane clothed with fine short (*circa* 0.08)<sup>2</sup> decumbent hairs, hairs most dense on and lending a subshining appearance to antennae, tibiae, abdomen and laterally in transverse impression of pronotum, anterior pronotal lobe nearly glabrous; anterior pronotal collar pruinose and punctate ventrally.

Head slightly declivent anteriorly, eyes longitudinally oval, sessile, length head 1.86, width 1.23, interocular distance 0.61; length anterior pronotal lobe 1.14; length posterior lobe 0.61, maximum width anterior lobe 1.14; width across humeri 1.54; length scutellum 0.99, width 0.84; length corium 3.31, distance apex corium to apex membrane 1.38; labium extending beyond posterior margin of prosternum, length labial segments I 0.84, II 1.03, III 0.76, IV 0.38; bucculae very short, scarcely reaching over proximal end of 1st labial segment, extending beyond apex of tylus; length antennal segments I 0.95, II 1.80, III 1.48, IV 1.75; total length 8.24.

*Holotype*. Bolivia: ♂ Rurrenabaque Beni Oct. 1921 (W. M. Mann), Mulford Bio. Expl. 1921-22. In National Museum of Natural History No. 71224.

*Paratypes*. Bolivia: 1 ♀ Reyes-beni XII-12-1956—1 ♀ Prov. Sara (Steinbach). Peru: 1 ♂ Tingo Maria VII-10-1968 night (C. E. & L. B. O'Brien). Brazil: 1 ♂ Barbacena, M. Gerais, Feb. 1962 (M. Alvarenga) on Urticaceae—1 ♀ Caceres M. Gerais, Dec. 1955 (Alvarenga). In Museu Nacional Rio de Janeiro, American Museum of Natural History, J. A. Slater and J. E. Harrington collections.

The two Brazilian and the Peruvian paratypes are darker than the holotype and Bolivian paratypes. Their general coloration is between dark chestnut and dusky brown or fuscous rather than the light chestnut to tawny of the holotype. The number of small spines present ventrally on the fore femora also seems to be a variable condition. However, the body form and proportions, distinctive white color pattern of the hemelytra, and unique pruinose banding on the posterior pronotal lobe and all other significant morphological features are constant.

The Villalobos color chart (Palmer, 1962) has been used as a standard in the above description.

#### Literature Cited

- PALMER, R. S. 1962. "Handbook of North American Birds." Vol. I, Loons through Flamingos. New Haven and London, Yale University Press.

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<sup>2</sup> All measurements are in millimeters.